

**Question for written answer E-000911/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: Admission of Ceuta and Melilla into the Schengen Area

Since Spain joined the Schengen Area, the Spanish and European cities of Ceuta and Melilla have been excluded from that area under a special arrangement.

This derogation was tailored to Ceuta and Melilla's unique circumstances and with a view to enabling people and goods to move more freely between Morocco and Spain, on the basis of good faith and in the mutual interest of the border communities.

In recent years, Morocco has breached that good faith principle, placing an economic stranglehold on both cities and using migration controls as a weapon to blackmail Spain in an effort to advance its own international objectives. Those intentions are evident from the swamping of Ceuta's border in May 2021 and the latest events in Melilla.

Given the above:

1. Has the Spanish Government applied for Ceuta and Melilla to join the Schengen Area?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the cities' admission does not undermine their economies?
3. What measures will the Commission take to step up migration controls at the borders and ensure that Morocco honours its migration commitments?